

Name: _____

Objective: Place *Death of a Salesman* within historical context

Activity: *Death of a Salesman* was written by Arthur Miller **in 1949, and is set both in Yonkers, New York**, and in New England during the same time period. Explore the setting in detail using the following topics. If you can think of other research topics similar to these, you may use them as well.

Topics for Research:

Political climate (what major conflicts was the U.S. involved in? Who was president and how did he approach these conflicts?)

News Events (Which events appeared in the national news at the time?)

Family infrastructure (What roles did men and women have in the home or in society? Were these roles the way they had always been or were they changing?)

Economy (Consider comparing the cost of familiar items –milk, gas, food, rent, etc. and/or average earnings to help put things in perspective. Was the U.S. economy healthy or not?)

Style and Fashion (What were some types of clothing, hairstyles, prevalent during the time period?)

